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March 20, 2017

Dr. David Shulkin
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Secretary Shulkin:

I write to you today with regard to the recently released Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) report regarding VISN-6, which includes two facilities in my district: the W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, NC and the Fayetteville VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC.

The OIG report goes into great length about wait times regarding both standard care through the VA Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and through the VA Choice Program. As the Representative of one of the fastest growing veteran populations in the country and on behalf of the thousands of my constituents who rely on both of these facilities, I am extremely troubled by the findings of this report. To that end, I would like answers to the below questions:

- How has this gross level of negligence been allowed?
- What is leadership at the VA doing to correct this issue?
- What benchmarks will VISN-6 give to the North Carolina Congressional delegation to show improvements are being made?
- What does the VA say in response to allegations that this behavior systematically undermines the Choice program?

If you have not already taken immediate action to correct this disservice to our veterans, I recommend you do so immediately. Please know that I will continue to closely monitor this situation and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress